

09/490,529

645XX

AMENDMENTS

Sub B17
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1. (Currently Amended) A personal shopping system for servicing customers at shopping establishment and remote locations over at least one communications network, the shopping system comprising:

at least one point-of-sale (POS) system located in the shopping establishment;
at least one establishment or remotely located portable shopping terminal for acquiring shopping related data; and
a centrally located controller for communicating with said POS system and said at least one shopping terminal via said at least one network, processing said shopping related data, and controlling shopping transactions engaged in by said customers.

2. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, ~~wherein said at least one shopping terminal is a portable terminal~~, said portable terminal comprising an elongated pen-shaped housing having an end with an optically transparent passage therethrough.

3. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, ~~wherein said at least one shopping terminal is a portable terminal~~, said portable terminal comprising:

a housing having a generally elongated rectangular design which fits into user's hand, said housing having a front surface, a back surface, a top surface, a bottom surface and two side surfaces;

a touch sensitive display disposed on said front surface;

a plurality of buttons disposed on said front surface wherein each of said buttons is associated with at least one user function or application upon activation;

a bar code reader for reading bar codes, said bar code reader having a visible light source for displaying the area of reading for the bar code reader upon activation of a bar code reading function on said portable terminal, said bar code reader being configured to transmit the visible light away from said top surface of said portable terminal's housing such that said light is visible to said user holding said portable terminal; and

09/490,529

645XX

a1 Sub B1 at least two bar code activation buttons located on said two side surfaces of said housing such that said user's hand is supporting said portable terminal from said bottom and side surfaces of said portable terminal upon activation of said bar code reader with either of said bar code activation buttons, whereby the user can view said display and said visible light source upon activation of either of said bar code activation buttons.

4. (Original) The shopping system according to claim 3, wherein said portable terminal further comprises a touch sensitive area within said touch sensitive display for receiving data inputs from a stylus pen.
5. (Original) The shopping system according to claim 3, wherein said portable terminal further comprises an information key for allowing a user to display product information.
6. (Original) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein said controller comprises inference means for deriving a shopping profile for the customer.
7. (Original) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one shopping terminal comprises means for converting any currency amount to and from a corresponding Euro amount.
8. (Original) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one shopping terminal is coupled to a telephone line and said shopping terminal comprises means for providing secure and silent communications when transferring data to and from said shopping terminal without notifying or disturbing a user.
9. (Original) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one shopping terminal is a bar code storage device for reading bar codes from a hardcopy source, storing said bar codes, and transferring said bar codes to said controller over said at least one network.

09/490,529

645XX

10. (Original) The shopping system according to claim 9, wherein said bar code storage device comprises:

an egg-shaped housing;

a bar code reader for reading bar codes from a hardcopy source, said bar code reader having a visible light indicator for indicating the scanning status of the bar code reader and at least one bar code activation button located on the top surface of said bar code storage device for activating said bar code reader;

memory storage mean coupled to said bar code reader for storing said bar codes;
and

communication means for transferring said bar codes to said controller over said at least one network.

11. (Original) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one shopping terminal comprises a scanning system comprising a wearable computer processor and a wearable scanning device in communication with the computer processor.

12. (Original) The shopping system according to claim 11, wherein said scanning system further comprises a headset having a speaker and a miniature display device for providing a audio, graphical and video information.

13. (Original) The shopping system according to claim 1, further comprising one or more proximity sensors coupled to said controller for monitoring product sales areas in the shopping establishment.

14. (Original) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein said controller means for controlling the transaction processing and the operation of the POS system and said at least one shopping terminal;

means for communicating with at least one shopping terminal located within said shopping establishment;

09/490,529

645XX

24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein said associating step checking-in by a customer at a customer entry station;

authorizing the at least one terminal for use by the customer; and
obtaining the authorized terminal from a terminal receptacle.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein said associating step comprises the step of freely associating the terminal with the at least one network.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 23, further comprising:
generating a shopping list from a remote location;
forwarding said shopping list to the controller;
generating a picking list at the controller corresponding to items identified in the shopping list; and
collecting the items identified in the picking list for check-out or delivery.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 23, further comprising:
generating a shopping list from a remote location;
forwarding said shopping list to the controller;
generating a picking list at the controller corresponding to items identified in the shopping list;
assigning a picking list ID barcode to the picking list;
printing a label showing the picking list ID barcode;
scanning the items corresponding to the picking list; and
collecting the scanned items for check-out or delivery.

28. (Withdrawn)

29. (Withdrawn)

09/490,529

645XX

30. (Withdrawn)

31. (Withdrawn)

32. (Withdrawn)

33. (Withdrawn)

34. (Withdrawn)

35. (Withdrawn)

36. (Withdrawn)

37. (Withdrawn)

38. (Withdrawn)